

mortems on mental disorder cases and was able to demonstrate athieroma at the junction of the internal and external branches in every one of the specimens." Certainly this startling finding deserves more discussion in the book. By means of injection of blood vessels after death the author shows changes in the cerebral vascular pattern of psychotic patients. The photographs are impressive but so few data are presented that the reader cannot evaluate them.

Finally, there is a chapter on treatment. In this section the one case history is found and, although perhaps quoted from another source, it may be repeated here as a model of brevity. "A woman with uterine sepsis received bad news of a relative's illness. She lapsed immediately into stupor. A year after this she was diagnosed as a hopeless case of presenile dementia. Hysterectomy was performed and mental recovery took place immediately." In summary this book deals with the organic factors in psychiatric illness. Progress in this field is slow since the experimental findings must be checked with scientific accuracy. The broad scope of this book leads to a diffuse presentation that detracts from its value.

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**PROBLEMS OF CONSCIOUSNESS.** Transactions of the Third Conference. Edited by *H. A. Abramson*. (New York: Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation, 1952. Price: \$3.25.)

This volume is a pleasant sample of the several series of Macy Conference reports. Those who have enjoyed the opportunity of participating in the stimulating but unstructured give-and-take-of interdisciplinary discussion must wonder that so much coherence emerges in the record while so much spontaneity remains. These are good meetings and it is well that their influence should spread widely.

The formal presentations, which usually initiate a session, are limited to three. Seymour Kety opened the conference with "Consciousness and the Metabolism of the Brain," including a full summary of his own important studies relating oxygen consumption to state of consciousness in the human subject. Lewis Wolberg presented, at the next session, a recording of a hypnoanalytic treatment session and a movie of a subject in a hypnotically induced conflict, under the title "Hypnotic Phenomena." Even the printed records are impressive and plead yet again for more investigation along such promising lines. Marcel Monnier, a guest from Switzerland, closed the series with a report of "Experimental Work on Sleep and other Variations of Consciousness," which summarizes admirably the effects of direct electrical stimulation of diencephalic and other centers altering consciousness and the electrical activity of the brain.

The three widely different approaches, plus the multiple-sided discussion of each, supply rich material for the subject of the conference and suggest many further experiments.

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**CHILD PSYCHOTHERAPY.** By *S. R. Slavson*. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1952. Price: \$4.50.)

Mr. Slavson has collected in this book his prolific thinking and wide experience in psychotherapeutic work with both children and parents. This includes work with individuals and groups, approached from a psychoanalytic viewpoint. About half the book is concerned with background material, including factors involved in personality development and psychopathology. There are also considerations of individual, family, and other relationship patterns and their distortions.

The most valuable contribution of the book is in its detailed consideration of the aims, nature, and dynamics of child psychotherapy; the psychotherapist's skills, functions, and makeup; and the planning of treatment. It is probably the clearest comprehensive statement on these problems to appear in the last 15 years.

One could wish that in the first part dogmatic pronouncements could have been avoided, viz., p.21: "If sucking, feeding and evacuation are painful experiences, or the child is threatened or assailed, however slightly, anxiety and the feeling of inferiority will pursue him throughout his life." Such statements are not consistent with the tone of the rest of the work. Also the attempts made by the author to clarify the confused state of classification of children's emotional problems seem to lead to more confusion. An example is the unhappy wedding of the classification used at the Jewish Board of Guardians in terms of pre-Oedipal and Oedipal problems with the questionably useful category of primary behavior disorders.

On the whole there is no question that this is a very useful book for both the initiate and supervisor in psychotherapy of children, spelling out as it does the basic elements involved in the therapeutic aims and processes.

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**EARLIEST STAGES OF DELINQUENCY.** By *H. Edleston, M. B., D. P. M.* (Baltimore: Williams & Wilkens, 1952. Price: \$2.50.)

The title of this book is somewhat misleading and not quite descriptive of its contents, namely the philosophy, structure, and casework of an English child guidance clinic. Only by ultimate potential would many of the cases cited be classifiable as delinquent.

From the standpoint of American reading the book suffers because of certain idiomatic expressions probably proper in England. The clinic structure described appears not to be outstanding in any sense. The replica of the form used to obtain information relative to school adjustment appears unnecessarily primitive.

The case histories presented, while properly illustrative of the author's case in question, are poorly reported and unnecessarily omit important data that could have been included without additional expansion. The dynamics involved are nicely im-